

CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS REGULAR COUNCIL

APRIL 15

2008

The City of Bedford Heights Council meeting was held at the City Hall, 5661 Perkins Road on April 15, 2008. Mayor Berger called the meeting to order at 7:41 P.M.

All Present pledged Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:	Mayor Berger	Councilwoman Grant
	Councilman Brown	Councilwoman MacKenzie
	Councilman Cody	Councilman Tinker
	Councilwoman Gilliam	Council President Saunders

Absent: None

Also Present:	Fin. Dir. Cegelka	P/S Dir. Bauccho
	Law Dir. Cirincione	Econ. & Comm. Dev. Dir Divito
	Chief Ledford	Bldg. Comm. Konys
	Chief Kalavsky	Clerk of Council Stahl
	City Engineer Bierut	

Mayor Berger stated that we are going to deviate from the agenda at this time, because we have some very exciting things going on. He said that he wanted to take this opportunity to introduce some of the newest members who have joined our team. He explained that they have all officially been sworn in and wants to personally present them to the community. Mayor Berger introduced Mr. Robert Madison who is our new City Architect who comes to us with a tremendous background having been involved in the architectural work at the Cleveland Browns Stadium and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He further explained one noteworthy thing about Mr. Madison is the fact that he has the first African-American architectural firm in the State of Ohio.

Mr. Madison thanked the Mayor, the Members of Council, and the Officers of this distinguished City of Bedford Heights. He stated that when Mayor Berger asked him if he would like to serve his community as the City Architect he was delighted. Mr. Madison pointed out an architect has only a few wishes, and that is to be able to affect beauty, change, and to try to do things to make for a better world. He said what we have tried to do is to ennoble the spirit of man through all that we do, so he is delighted and happy to be here.

Mayor Berger explained that one of the things he has talked a lot about is community policing, and the safety in a community is everything. He further explained no matter what you have in a community if you are not safe, nothing else that you get really matters. Mayor Berger introduced our two newest Police Officers who have been sworn in, and noted that they will be on board with us very shortly. He pointed out it is truly a unique opportunity when you are able to put on your first police officer, because the people we are currently putting in place to care for our community will certainly be here long after he has gone. Mayor Berger stated it is very important that we pick the right people who really embody the vision we have articulated in this community, and we had a whole list of people who desired to be here in Bedford Heights, Ohio.

Mayor Berger said we were blessed to find one of the brightest females who had that desire, and he asked Heather Betz to come forward at this time. He explained that it is one thing to talk about diversity, but it is another thing to practice diversity. Mayor Berger further explained that he gives kudos to Chief Kalavsky, because he really has created a very diverse police force. He pointed out that he has had conversations with Ms. Betz on multiple occasions, and he believes she absolutely understands the vision he has for Bedford Heights, Ohio. Mayor Berger stated that he is convinced Ms. Betz will be an asset to us and welcomed her and presented her to our community.

Ms. Betz thanked everybody in the City for giving her the opportunity, and it has been one of the departments she has always wanted to work with. She said it is a smaller department in a smaller community which means she is going to be able to get to know everybody by stopping to talk to people. Ms. Betz explained that community policing has been one of her biggest things ever since she was little and wanted to get into police work, so she is very excited to get started. She introduced her family members such as her father, her husband

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Charles Betz, and Sergeant James Cole who was one of her supervisors and friends. Sergeant Cole further explained that being a Sergeant, one of the things he takes pleasure in is he is one of the first people someone like Officer Betz would have a chance to interact with.

Sergeant Cole pointed out that he is not at the command level like a Lieutenant or Captain, but he is the guy they come to when things go wrong. He stated that he has to answer to his Chief who wanted to know how we let Officer Betz get away, but it comes down to finances and career options for her as a young officer. Sergeant Cole said that he expects somewhere down the line Officer Betz will become a command officer in order to effect change. Mayor Berger explained it is really tough when you are trying to put together a team, because you really want them to internalize the vision that you have. He further explained you can only articulate the vision, but it is the people who have to be able to implement the vision.

Mayor Berger asked Officer Robert Majer to come forward, and he also really understands the vision that he has. He pointed out Officer Majer understands when he talks about the kind of community we desire to create where we want people on the outside of the community to look inside and have a desire to be here. Mayor Berger stated that Officer Majer saw something in our Police Department which is what would make someone on the outside of the community have a desire to be here. He said the Chief who is someone many of these folks hear about.

Officer Majer thanked Mayor Berger and Chief Kalavsky for giving him this great opportunity to work in our community and he is really excited. He explained that he cannot wait to start but he is the one who still has to go to the Police Academy, so you won't be seeing him for a while. He further explained that he will do his best to uphold the City's great reputation. He acknowledged his family members who were present in the audience.

Mayor Berger pointed out that he wanted to have Debbie Hladky come up and speak to the issue of C.E.R.T, because one of the things we are talking about here is safety. He stated that he has had a lot of conversations with Councilman Brown who chairs the Safety Committee about safety preparedness for the community. Mayor Berger said in the event any situation comes up we want to anticipate that, and be able to care for the community. He explained that we are trying to do some things, and we are going to attempt to incorporate some of those things she shared into our plan.

Mrs. Hladky thanked Mayor Berger, and Council for allowing her to come here tonight before the residents. Mrs. Hladky said that she deeply appreciates the opportunity to be here, and she represents the C.E.R.T. Community Emergency Response Team. She said that it actually started in California in 1994 when F.E.M.A. decided to use a plan with the Los Angeles Fire Department to use in disasters. Mrs. Hladky explained that these are volunteers who go through twenty hours of training to be certified to assist others in their neighborhood and their workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available. She further explained that they are trained in disaster preparedness, disaster response skills, fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster medical operations, and traffic control. Mrs. Hladky pointed out they have twenty four certified members, and to date there are three certified trainers. The Southeast C.E.R.T. encompasses seven communities including Bedford, Bedford Heights, Glenwillow, Maple Heights, Oakwood Village, Walton Hills, and Warrensville Heights. She pointed out that C.E.R.T. is looking for more volunteers, so we can make a difference in your community.

Mayor Berger introduced the Cub Scout Pack which meets here at City Hall. Mike Parish who is the Charter Commissioner of Cub Scout Pack 675, and our pack leaders are Kathy and Dave. He stated that they are having a Pinewood Derby on April 29, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. downstairs at City Hall. He asked everyone to please come to see the kids race the cars they have made to support our pack. Mr. Parish said we are in the process of fund-raising, and expanding our recruitment to enlarge the size of our troop ages Kindergarten through grade four.

Mayor Berger acknowledged that Mrs. Berger is in the audience this evening. He did want to acknowledge one other person, Mr. Nate Harris, who retired from the City of Bedford Heights last Friday, April 11, 2008, and said the door is always open to him, and he is always welcome and encouraged to drop in on us. Mayor

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Berger explained now we will proceed with the business we came to do for the Council, and he thanked everyone for their patience in allowing us the opportunity for those recognitions. He further explained that we have a number of sets of minutes the first of which is from the March 18, 2008 regular Council meeting, and the April 1, 2008 regular Council meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS NOT YET APPROVED:

MOTION by Gilliam, second by MacKenzie to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2008 Regular Council meeting as amended.

Roll Call: Yeas - Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker, Saunders
Nays - None
7 Yeas - 0 Nays
Motion Carried

MOTION by Grant, second by Saunders to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2008 Regular Council meeting as received.

Roll Call: Yeas - Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker, Saunders
Nays - None
7 Yeas - 0 Nays
Motion Carried

Mayor Berger pointed out we have a number of items that are on the Consent Agenda, and he is going to ask for a motion for all of those items. He stated that the exception is the three Resolutions that were walk-ons. Resolution No. 2008-084, 2008-085 and 2008-086 which will be done in a separate motion from the other Consent Resolutions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-076

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND COMMENDATION TO NORMAN CASINI FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS CITY ARCHITECT AND AS A MEMBER OF THE ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-077

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND COMMENDATION TO GREGORY BETTS FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS A METRO PARK PLAYGROUND COMMISSIONER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY LIFE OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-078

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND COMMENDATION TO RON VALORE FOR HIS 23+ YEARS OF SERVICE AS A CUSTODIAN IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY LIFE OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-079

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

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A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND COMMENDATION TO NATE HARRIS FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS A MULTI-FAMILY AND MAINTENANCE INSPECTOR OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-080

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING EMIL SKALA ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-081

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING FRANK ZIMMERMAN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-082

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE FAMILY OF DELORES M. GRANT.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-083

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE FAMILY OF ROBERT LOUIS CONWELL.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-084

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE FAMILY OF JOHN J. CREED

MOTION by Grant, second by Tinker that the rule requiring two readings be waived pursuant to Section 6.06 of the Charter and all items on the Consent Agenda be adopted as presented.

Roll Call: Yeas - Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker, Saunders

Nays - None

7 Yeas - 0 Nays

Motion Carried

Chief Ledford thanked the Mayor and Council for passing Resolution No. 2008-084. He said that John J. Creed was one of the original eight founding members of the Bedford Heights Fire Department who was hired September 1, 1962. He said Mr. Creed served thirty-five years in this department retiring on March 13, 1997, and he passed away Wednesday of last week at home.

Chief Ledford said that Mrs. Creed was very happy with the Fire Department for providing an honor guard, and we will also be at the ceremony at the grave-site as well. He said that he will pass this Resolution on to the family, and will request that Mrs. Creed come to the next Council meeting to receive it in person. Mayor Berger explained that the Chief has requested that the flag be lowered to half staff tomorrow.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-085

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Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF NICOLE MacKENZIE TO THE CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DECEMBER 31, 2010, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

At this time Councilwoman MacKenzie asked to be excused from the meeting.

MOTION by Grant, second by Gilliam to suspend the rule requiring two readings.

Roll Call: Yeas - Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, Saunders	
Nays - Tinker	5 Yeas - 1 Nay
	Motion Carried

MOTION by Grant, second by Gilliam to adopt.

Roll Call: Yeas - Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, Saunders	
Nays - Tinker	5 Yeas - 1 Nay
	Motion Carried

Councilman Tinker commented that the reason he voted no on this particular Resolution is that we had two individuals who applied for the Council Cable vacancy, one of which who has volunteered in the community for many years. He further explained that the other individual has not volunteered in the City at all, and when we interview individuals for vacant positions we ask how long have you served as a volunteer. Councilman Tinker pointed out that we need to be consistent if we look at how long someone has volunteered within the City as one of the requirements, we made a disservice choosing somebody regardless of whether that person is a youth or not. He said that there are many opportunities where youth can get involved with the City. Councilman Tinker said when we start filling positions, we should start looking at people who have put their time in before we look at people who are not actively volunteering for the City.

Councilwoman MacKenzie returned to the dias.

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-086

Introduced by: Mayor Berger and Council Members Saunders, Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION (g) OF SECTION 111.21 IN REGARD TO STARTING TIMES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS INCLUDING THE PRE-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AND ELIMINATING THE POST COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Tinker, second by Gilliam to suspend the rule requiring two readings.

Roll Call: Yeas - Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker, Saunders	
Nays - None	7 Yeas - 0 Nays
	Motion Carried

MOTION by Tinker, second by Gilliam to adopt.

Roll Call: Yeas - Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker, Saunders	
Nays - None	7 Yeas - 0 Nays
	Motion Carried

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

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MAYORS REPORT, Mayor Berger: Mayor Berger acknowledged Public Service Director Nick Bauccho and his crew for some of the work he has been doing out there to clean up some of the trash. He explained litter is a terrible thing that is spread throughout the community, and picking up the trash to try and keep Bedford Heights clean is not our job or our responsibility. Mayor Berger further explained that it actually is the responsibility of O.D.O.T., but it is nice to see our folks take initiative to go a step beyond to make things beautiful here in Bedford Heights. He pointed out that a decision has absolutely been made that Community Days as we have known it in the past will not occur this year. Mayor Berger said it will be changed to something that certainly will be different; it will be a one day event a “Family Fun Day” which will be a free event to the residents and the children. Mayor Berger asked for the community to save the date June 28, 2008, and as you start to hear more we will hopefully be able to encourage people to attend. He said that we will begin the planning for this event next week, and he will certainly keep everyone abreast of what is going on.

SAFETY COMMITTEE, Chairman Brown: Chairman Brown congratulated Mayor Berger for bringing in members of C.E.R.T., and that is exactly what we are trying to do in our community to get volunteers to be prepared. He explained that on behalf of the Safety Committee he would like to thank Mayor Berger for his insight, and maybe some members of the audience would like to be volunteers. Chairman Brown announced that we are going to have a Safety Committee meeting on April 29, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, Chairman Saunders: No Report.

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE, Chairwoman MacKenzie: Chairwoman MacKenzie reported that the Community Life Committee had a meeting last week with minutes to follow. She announced on April 16, 2008 we will have our youth mentoring meeting from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. over at the Community Center.

PUBLIC SERVICE/WATER RECLAMATION COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Grant: Chairwoman Grant reported that we will have a meeting on April 30, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss a change order and equipment purchase. She further explained that there will also be a general discussion of public works issues that we want to address. Chairwoman Grant announced that we have a Hazardous Waste Program from April 21, 2008 to May 2, 2008 where you can drop off your waste pesticides at the Service Garage at 25401 Solon Road which will also be posted on BHTV-23. She pointed out that the branch chipping program started on April 14th and will go through the third week of October. Chairwoman Grant stated that to emphasize what the Mayor just brought up about cleaning up our roadways the Public Service Department using 100 man hours collected 120 bags of litter. She commended our Service Garage individuals, and thanked them very much for keeping our City clean.

PLANNING COMMISSION. Chairman Berger: Chairman Berger said the Planning Commission is scheduled to meet May 13, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. in the Caucus Room.

BUILDING AND HOUSING COMMITTEE. Chairwoman MacKenzie: No Report.

INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, Chairman Cody: Chairman Cody explained that there was a phone conference with the City Engineer, himself and the Cleveland Water Department, so we are hoping to get a decision by the end of the month about the Sunset Drive waterline.

LEGISLATIVE/EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Chairwoman Gilliam: Chairwoman Gilliam reported that we have a meeting scheduled for April 17, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, Chairman Tinker: Chairman Tinker asked our Economic Development Director Marti Divito to talk about the grant we are applying for a sidewalk and an all purpose trail on Richmond Road between Miles Road and the railroad tracks. Econ. & Comm. Dev. Dir. further explained that N.O.A.C.A. which is the Northern Ohio Area Wide Coordinating Agency has received approximately \$22,000,000 from the Federal Government to encourage communities to do what they call job access and reverse commute. She pointed out the idea is to increase public transportation and access for people to move on bus transit, and literally an all purpose trail to enable people from

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Warrensville Heights to go on to Solon.

Chairman Tinker stated now that the budget has been approved one of the things he has been asking for the last year or so is to get some help in the Economic Development Office, because right now it is a one person office. He said that we have two part-time positions for the Economic Development Department, so when we do finally have a meeting sometime in May we can discuss this issue.

Chairman Tinker explained that Mayor Berger has been talking to some of the larger employers in the area about some of the issues those companies are having, and what we as the City Council can do to help keep them in the City. He further explained that as a representative and a board member of the Bedford Heights Chamber of Commerce there are two announcements he would like to make on their behalf. Chairman Tinker pointed out a meeting on April 24, 2008 at 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. to talk about energy conservation, and we invite the residents and the businesses in the area to come. He said on June 13, 2008 we are having a golf outing at Grantwood Golf Course, and they are looking for sponsors.

Mayor Berger said although we have the bus system that now serves the area, it is still somewhat hazardous, and if we can get grant money to be able to add beauty and safety it would be good. Mayor Berger explained that this makes it more likely those businesses will be able to have resources for people who otherwise would not be able to get to those locations. He further explained that it is also really healthy when you have people out walking up and down trails; it is a really nice thing to see in a community. Mayor Berger pointed out another one of the things we have been talking to the businesses about is some beautification over there, and we are going to start to see some store front renovations. He said we also have a commitment from a couple of the people over there to put some major investments into that area, and we need to be doing the things that is going to spark excitement.

CABLE TELEVISION COMMITTEE. Chairman Brown: Chairman Brown announced we are now featuring the State of the City Address by Mayor Berger which is an excellent program. He invited those who have not viewed BHTV Channel 23, to do so because it has a lot of information especially coming from the Mayor as well as each Department Head. Chairman Brown said we are also featuring a segment dealing with the unions about apprenticeship that is being sponsored by 18 different factions of the union, and with this they are giving apprenticeships to people in our community who might be interested in changing jobs. He reported our next Cable T.V. Advisory Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. Council President Saunders: Council President Saunders announced that the Committee of the Whole began at 6:30 P.M., and will reconvene following this

Council meeting for post-Committee of the Whole. Our next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 with Committee of the Whole beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the Caucus Room and Council meeting starting at 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers. He announced there will be no post-Committee of the Whole meeting after the Council meeting that takes place on the floor unless it is a request to move for an Executive Session or if Council votes totally to hold a meeting after the Council meeting on the floor. Council President Saunders explained that if you have any questions feel free to call Pat Stahl in the Clerk of Council Office, and she can give you that information, and there will also be information put in the newsletter. He announced birthdays of some of our staff of the City of Bedford Heights April 18th Kay Gary, April 20th Joe Barber, April 23rd is Administrative Professionals Day, April 26th Renee Cole.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

No Report

MISCELLANEOUS:

Councilwoman Gilliam commented that she would like to share a few comments concerning legislation

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passed earlier, Resolution No. 2008-085 appointing a new member to the Cable Television Advisory Committee. She said very often Council engages in what she calls crucial conversations, and this means we have high stakes and there are opposing viewpoints, and strong emotions. Councilwoman Gilliam pointed out that this happens to be one of those, and she is speaking for herself as an elected Council person she has one vote which she has to vote according to her conscience. She said that when she ran for election and re-election she ran on a platform of supporting our young people to become engaged and involved in our City. Councilwoman Gilliam said she will not deviate from her mantra which she believes in with her heart, and there are not many young people who step forward to become involved in the City. Councilwoman Gilliam explained that she has worked very hard in a number of different areas trying to get more young people engaged. She further explained in her opinion when she feels a young person is deserving of an opportunity to serve in some capacity in the City paid or unpaid she is going to vote according to her conscience. Councilwoman Gilliam noted for the record when we considered different candidates for different committees and commission positions on a list of criteria we have listed volunteerism or what has the person done within the community. She pointed out that there has never been a discussion among Council that one was weighted heavier than another, it is all based on personal decision making that each individual makes. Councilwoman Gilliam stated there are no sheets we have to complete and turn in at the end of a meeting to be tallied and this is really based on a Council person's opinion.

Councilman Brown said as Chairman of the Council Cable Committee he has to set the record straight. He said in due respect to Councilman Tinker, some of the remarks he made are certainly not accurate. He explained that we have never interviewed anyone to be on the Cable T.V. Advisory Committee, and he at one point thought we possibly could do interviews. Councilman Brown further explained that in discussions with the Committee we found out since we had never done it before it would be improper to impose that on anybody new coming in even if they are being compensated. He pointed out we do have two people serving on the Cable T.V. Advisory Committee that are being compensated who never had an interview or had to submit a resume or anything else like all of the other members. Councilman Brown stated Council has just recently on the Planning Commission appointed someone that had very little participation in the City even though he has done many things outside of the City.

Councilman Brown said that the last person we just hired for the Planning Commission participation in the City was just one of the selection criteria. He explained we have another Planning Commission person who had experience working on political campaigns for elections, but had no real participation in the City. Councilman Brown further explained that we also have a person serving right now on the Civil Service Commission who had very little participation in the City, but the qualifications were there. He pointed out the same amount of time Councilman Tinker was on Council Nicole MacKenzie was off to college, but prior to that Nicole was very active in the community.

Councilman Brown said before making that statement he would have asked to find out if she was involved. He explained one thing he wants to commend Mayor Berger on that hopefully he is not doing is when a young person tries to get hired in this City the requirement was so steep most of them walked away. Chairman Brown further explained that they had to show identification and get a background check, and we have a lot of kids who do not participate in this City. He pointed out we are trying to regenerate the involvement of our youth, and he has a pact with Councilwoman Gilliam about trying to get youth involvement in the community. Councilman Brown stated he did not mention that to Council, because he did not want to unduly influence anyone according to his thinking.

Councilman Brown said we are going to be celebrating at the next Council meeting one of our own Mr. Emil Skala who is ninety years old. He said we have to start bringing in some young folks on the cable committee. He explained we have to start preparing somewhere that is what it is about, it is not about Council trying to deny anyone their participation. Councilman Brown further explained that you cannot put everyone on and unfortunately for him, he choose a young person whether that is wrong or right. Councilman Tinker commented on the Planning Commission appointment that Councilman Brown talked about, but the basic difference here is that we need certain qualifications to be on the Planning Commission. He pointed out that we do have meetings and qualifications to be on the Cable T. V. Advisory Committee and that is the basic difference, because it makes no sense to put somebody on the Planning Commission if they are not qualified

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for that position.

Councilman Tinker stated he agrees if you have someone who is qualified that takes precedence over someone who volunteers and that is why he would vote for someone with qualifications. He said he was a leader in a program called “Leaders of Tomorrow” so he is all about youth, but to be fair when someone has volunteered with the City for ten years unpaid at the Community Center and many other events. Councilman Tinker explained this in comparison with somebody that when he looked at the resume no where on the resume does it say they volunteered within the City. He further explained that we need to bring people on who are volunteers for the City where the City can say thank you for volunteering. Council President Saunders pointed out that tonight’s Post-Committee of the Whole will be our last, but he is going to ask Council for an Executive Session after the Post-Committee of the Whole for the purpose of personnel and litigation.

MOTION by Grant, second by MacKenzie to conduct an Executive Session after the Post-Committee of the Whole for the purpose of litigation and personnel.

Roll Call: Yeas - Brown, Cody, Gilliam, Grant, MacKenzie, Tinker, Saunders
Nays - None 7 Yeas - 0 Nays
Motion Carried

Councilwoman Grant reminded everyone that the Bedford City Schools Foundation Race and Pancake Breakfast is April 20th. She stated it is a group that develops scholarship funds for Bedford City School students who want to attend college.

INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATION OR CITIZENS WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL:

Vicki Kaufman, 6002 Randy Road, said she has been a resident for practically twenty years, and there is a lot of children she is concerned about playing in the streets. She explained that we have sidewalks, driveways, front yards, and back yards, but for some reason the kids want to play in the street. Ms. Kaufman further explained that last year we saw the kids playing chicken laying in the street like who could get up first or last before cars come. She pointed out that she had a brother who was killed on a bicycle and it was a pure accident so she does not want to see that happen here. Ms. Kaufman stated that we have kids driving young kids in cars with low seats, loud music, and they are not paying attention.

Ms. Kaufman asked if the School Board has some kind of safety program, but to do something with that. She suggested the use of a bicycle patrol or maybe some kind of literature could be distributed to people in the community, but we need to stop it before someone gets hurt. Mayor Berger responded that he absolutely agrees and certainly he and the Chief are aware of a number of issues, and youth is certainly one of those issues we will be focusing on. He said he and Councilman Brown were at a community meeting last night where youth was one of the items that came up. Mayor Berger explained that this is why we brought on a few new Police Officers, and we have also brought on a new Auxiliary Police Officer.

Mayor Berger further explained another one of the things that we are doing, and Councilwoman Gilliam and others are involved in this, is we are trying to create what we call a playful community. He pointed out that we are going to have designated play areas for the young people to play in. Some of the play facilities that we have are not easily accessible to some, and it is something we are giving attention to. Mayor Berger said that the most frightening thing that could happen is for us to lose a child, and it could happen which we do not want to see. Mayor Berger thanked Ms. Kaufman for coming in to express her concerns. He said we are doing some additional things by returning baseball to our community and noted that 240 young people signed up. He said we are trying to create activities to keep the young people busy and off the streets, so we take this quite seriously.

Mr. Michael Parish, 5616 Perkins Road, explained that he had some issues of concern the first of which is a traffic issue here at Perkins Plaza where the entrance and exit signs are atrocious. He further explained that there needs to be a clear definition of which way is in and which way is out. He said numerous incidences

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have been avoided with very close calls. Mr. Parish pointed out with the R.T.A. bus stop being there it gets very congested when school is out with cars flying in and out of there. He said in the parking lot itself, the entrance and exit signs are very small and people pay very little attention to them, and it needs to be addressed as a traffic safety issue. Mr. Parish said we have a few disabled people in wheelchairs trying to get across the street there is no clear indication of a crosswalk situation for them.

Mr. Parish suggested that there should be some designated crossing area for a wheelchair accessible ramp to be able to proceed right across over to our City Hall facility and then to the Community Center. He explained that a lot of the time he will run out into the street and stop the traffic to help these people get across the street. He suggested a little yellow warning sign and some painting on the street. Mayor Berger responded that he is in the process right now of setting up a meeting with R.T.A., because their bus stop up on this corner creates a major safety hazard. He further explained it does not make sense that a bus would stop in a curve and block traffic from being able to go around it, and when that happens people try to get around the bus on a curve.

Mayor Berger pointed out that the people who are going north are proceeding as they should, but when that problem does happen it does create a hazard. He said the other situation in terms of the signage has to be looked into, because it is obviously on private property so there are some limits to what we are able to do. Mayor Berger said he does believe he will be able to get R.T.A. to understand the issue when he explains it to them, and what he is going to ask them to do is move it down to the straight-away. He suggested that Mr. Parish have a conversation with the City Engineer before he leaves this evening, and Mayor Berger asked Mr. Bierut to get on his schedule to share that information with him.